



The Parish Church of

# St John the Baptist

Serving the communities of Bodicote,  
Cherwell Heights and Longford Park

**Our Parish Prayer** Ever living God, give us the courage to be your church in the community and for the community, and teach us new ways to share your love with all those around us. Amen.

## Sunday 26 April

4th Sunday of Easter • Vocations Sunday

### Collect

Almighty God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ  
is the resurrection and the life:  
raise us, who trust in him,  
from the death of sin  
to the life of righteousness,  
that we may seek those things  
which are above,  
where he reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.

### First Reading: Acts 2:42-end

The people who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because

many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.

Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

### Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-23

For it is to your credit if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for

doing wrong, where is the credit in that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval.

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth. When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly.

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

### **Gospel Reading: John 10.1–10**

Jesus said, 'Now Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit.

'The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

'When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers'.

Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them.

'I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.

'The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly'.

### **Post-communion Prayer**

Merciful Father,  
you gave your Son Jesus Christ  
to be the good shepherd,  
and in his love for us  
to lay down his life and rise again:  
keep us always under his  
protection,  
and give us grace  
to follow in his steps;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## **An Act of Commissioning**

Alice, do you believe, so far as you know your own heart, that God has called you to serve here?

*I believe that God has called me.*

Will you commit yourself to the mission and ministry of the people in this place to further the kingdom of God?

*With the help of God, I will.*

Will you be faithful to the Word of God, diligent in studying the scriptures, and wholehearted in proclaiming the faith of the church?

*With the help of God, I will.*

Will you continually seek to know God, through prayer, intercession, and openness to the Spirit?

*With the help of God, I will.*

Will you faithfully minister the sacraments and bring others to the living water, Jesus Christ himself?

*With the help of God, I will.*

Will you, the people of God here in this place, support and pray for Alice in her ministry?

**With the help of God, we will.**

Eternal God, in your love you pour out upon us gifts of your Spirit for the service of the Gospel. Bless your servant Alice in her ministry amongst us. May your Spirit uphold her, and us, as we respond to your call, that we may make your grace and glory known to the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Together, as many members of one body, let us commit ourselves afresh to the vision of our church in the words of the parish prayer:

**Ever living God, give us the courage to be your church in the community and for the community, and teach us new ways to share your love with all those around us. Amen.**

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## Notices

Today is **Vocation Sunday**, when we think about God's plan for each of us. You are invited to reflect on what gifts and passions you have, and what God might be calling you to explore. If you would like a space to talk about this topic, or if you have an idea of where God might be calling you within our church, the vicar would be very happy to meet with you (contact details on the back page).

Thanks to all who attended the **APCM** last week, and congratulations to Alison Bell, who has been elected as a new PCC member, and to Lynn Wilson, who – in addition to continuing as our Parish Safeguarding Officer – will also serve as a representative on Deanery Synod. We hope to announce congratulations in due course for another new member to PCC, pending our first meeting.

This coming Saturday will be our next **Churchyard working party** – please do come along if you're able, anytime from 9am to 11am, even if you can only spare a little time to help keep our churchyard so beautiful and peaceful. Refreshments are provided on a "bring and share" basis.

Our **Community Fete** is coming up next month on Saturday 16 May.

If you haven't already done so, please take a few books of raffle tickets to sell to family and friends, or buy yourself. This will be the main source of income for the church. We are very grateful for Londis in Bodicote whose generosity has enabled us to add a 2nd cash prize of £75 and 3rd of £25.

If you would like to run a stall in aid of the church at the fete or are willing to help in any way, please speak to Ann or email the office.

## **Diary for this week**

*All in church unless otherwise stated*

### **Sunday 26 April**

8am Holy Communion (BCP)  
9.45am Parish Communion  
11.30am Baptism of Luna Osenton

### **Monday 27 April**

8.30am Morning Prayer (Zoom\*)

### **Wednesday 29 April**

2.30pm Afternoon Tea in Church House

### **Thursday 30 April**

Vicar's day off

### **Saturday 2 May**

9am Churchyard Working Party

### **Sunday 3 May**

8am Holy Communion (BCP)  
9.45am Parish Communion

\*Please ask wardens for the link.

### **Readings for 3 May**

Acts 7:55-end, 1 Peter 2:2-10,  
John 14:1-14

**This week we pray** for all who live or work in Broad Gap, and Broad End.

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## Contact us

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